

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a complete listing of the claims, and replaces all earlier version and listings.

1. - 11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended): A network-connectable apparatus, comprising:

a restricting device adapted to restrict access to the network-connectable apparatus by another apparatus in response to a request by the other apparatus;

a detecting device adapted to detect whether the request from the other apparatus is a request for inquiry about update of a file; a predetermined request;

a discrimination device adapted to discriminate, based on detection by said detecting device, whether a file information corresponding to a file information cached by the other apparatus has been updated; and

a sending device which is adapted ~~selectively to execute one of a first and a second sending process based on whether said restricting device has restricted access in response to the request, the first sending process including sending first or second information to the other apparatus in accordance with the discrimination by said discrimination device, and the second sending process including sending third information to the other apparatus regardless of whether updating has been discriminated by said discrimination device,~~ in the case where the access to the network-connectable apparatus by the other apparatus is not restricted, selectively to send information representing that the file corresponding to the file cached by the other apparatus has not been updated, to the

other apparatus, or to send the updated file to the other apparatus, in accordance with the discrimination by said discrimination device, and,

in the case where the access to the network-connectable apparatus by the other apparatus is restricted, to send information representing that the access is rejected to the other apparatus, regardless as to whether or not the file corresponding to the file cached by the other apparatus is updated.

13. (currently amended): The network-connectable apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said discrimination device makes its discrimination in accordance with time information included in the ~~predetermined~~ request.

14. (currently amended): The network-connectable apparatus according to claim 12, wherein ~~, in a case in which access-restriction is not made, said sending device performs the first sending process in accordance with the discrimination by said discrimination device, and in a case in which access-restriction is made, said sending device performs the second sending process without performance of discrimination by said discrimination device;~~

~~wherein the third information is information for describing a screen image which indicates in the other apparatus the reason for the access restriction~~ the information representing the access-rejection is information for describing a screen image which indicates in the other apparatus the reason for the access restriction.

15. (previously presented): The network-connectable apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said restricting device restricts access by the other apparatus in accordance with whether the network-connectable apparatus is under maintenance.

16. (currently amended): A network-connectable apparatus, comprising:
a restricting device adapted to restrict access by another apparatus in response to a request from the other apparatus;

a detection device adapted to detect time information related to a file ~~information~~ possessed by the other apparatus;

a discrimination device adapted to discriminate whether information a file corresponding to a file ~~information~~ cached by the other apparatus has been updated, in accordance with time information detected by said detection device; and

a sending device adapted ~~to send, in a case in which access-restriction is not made by said restricting device, first information or second information to the other apparatus in accordance with a discrimination made by said discriminating device, and to send, in a case in which access-restriction is made by said restricting device, third information to the other apparatus regardless of the result of discrimination made by said discriminating device, in the case where the access to the network-connectable apparatus by the other apparatus is not restricted, selectively to send information representing that the file corresponding to the file cached by the other apparatus has not been updated, to the other apparatus, or to send the updated file to the other apparatus, in accordance with the discrimination by said discrimination device, and,~~

in the case where the access to the network-connectable apparatus by the other apparatus is restricted, to send information representing that the access is rejected to

the other apparatus, regardless as to whether or not the file corresponding to the file cached by the other apparatus is updated.

17. (currently amended): The network-connectable apparatus according to claim 16, wherein, in a case in which access-restriction is made, said sending device sends the information representing that the access is rejected ~~the third information~~ to the other apparatus without performance of discrimination by said discrimination device.

18. (previously presented): The network-connectable apparatus according to claim 16, wherein said restricting device restricts access by the other apparatus in accordance with whether the network-connectable apparatus is under maintenance.

19. (currently amended): The network-connectable apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the information representing access-restriction ~~the third information~~ is information for describing a screen image which indicates in the other apparatus the reason for the access restriction.

20. (currently amended): A control method for a network-connectable apparatus, comprising:

a restriction step of restricting access to the network-connectable apparatus by another apparatus in response to a request from the other apparatus;

a detecting step of detecting whether the request from the other apparatus is a request for inquiry about update of a file ~~a predetermined request~~;

a discrimination step of discriminating whether a file information corresponding to a file information cached by the other apparatus has been updated, in accordance with the detection in said detecting step; and

a sending step of, in the case where the access to the network-connectable apparatus by the other apparatus is not restricted, selectively sending information representing that the file corresponding to the file cached by the other apparatus has not been updated, to the other apparatus, or sending the updated file to the other apparatus, in accordance with the discrimination in said discrimination step, and,

in the case where the access to the network-connectable apparatus by the other apparatus is restricted, sending information representing that the access is rejected to the other apparatus, regardless as to whether or not the file corresponding to the file cached by the other apparatus is updated~~selecting-executing one of a first and a second sending process, based on whether access-restriction has been made in said restricting step in response to the request, the first sending process including sending first or second information to the other apparatus in accordance with the discrimination in said discrimination step, and the second sending process including sending third information to the other apparatus regardless of the discrimination made in said discrimination step.~~

21. (currently amended): A control method for a network-connectable apparatus, comprising:

a restricting step of restricting access by another apparatus in response to a request from the other apparatus;

a detection step of detecting time information related to a file information possessed by the other apparatus;

a discrimination step of discriminating whether a file information corresponding to a file information cached by the other apparatus has been updated, in accordance with time information detected in said detection step; and

a sending step of, in the case where the access to the network-connectable apparatus by the other apparatus is not restricted, selectively sending information representing that the file corresponding to the file cached by the other apparatus has not been updated, to the other apparatus, or sending the updated file to the other apparatus, in accordance with the discrimination in said discrimination step, and,

in the case where the access to the network-connectable apparatus by the other apparatus is restricted, sending information representing that the access is rejected to the other apparatus, regardless as to whether or not the file corresponding to the file cached by the other apparatus is updated~~sending, in a case in which access-restriction is not made in said restricting step, first information or second information to the other apparatus in accordance with the discrimination made in said discriminating step, and sending, in a case in which access-restriction is not made in said restricting step, third information to the other apparatus regardless of the result of the discrimination made in said discrimination step.~~